Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached: Replacement Drawings

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the office action dated April 2, 2008. Figures 2-3, 5-7, 9A-9H, and 10A-10D were objected to for informalities. Accordingly, the replacement drawings are being submitted in response the Examiner's objections. No new matter has been added.

The allowability of Claim 9 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted with appreciation. Accordingly, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim as new claim 22, and claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 23-29 directly depend from 22 and therefore should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 22. New claim 30 is directed to apparatus for implementing the method described in claim 9 and should thus be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 9. Claims 31-34 directly depend from claim 30 and should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 30.

By this amendment, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended. The subject matter that the buffer correlation data structure has data for locating cells within a slice is not new matter as it is disclosed in paragraph 70 of the original specification. Reconsideration of this application as amended is now requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-18, and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,907,001 to Nakayama et al. (*hereinafter*, "Nakayama") in view of Rosen, IETF RFC 3031, "MPLS Architecture," January 2001 (*hereinafter*, "Rosen"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0028067 to Chong et al. (*hereinafter*, "Chong"). In view of the amendments and arguments set forth below, it is submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct over the art of record.

Independent claims 1 and 16, as currently amended, recite a buffer correlation data structure for correlating one or more buffers to the packet and comprising data representative of the location of cells within a slice. As noted in the specification (see also Fig. 7), slices may not

arrive in order and the order of the cells received may not correspond to the correct order. The buffer correlation data structure enables the ingress buffer queue manager to determine where each cell is, e.g. which slice the cell is located in.

By contrast, Nakayama delivers cells in time sequence (see e.g. col. 8 lines 26-31; col. 10 lines 41-45; and col. 14 lines 41-44). The output line number and input line number refer to which interfaces coupled to the switch fabric the cells were routed. Cells in Nakayama are received in sequential order and Nakayama would be unable to reconstruct a packet if a slice is received out of sequence, whereas the buffer correlation data structure recited in claims 1 and 16 enables packets to be reconstructed even if the slices are received out of order.

The aforementioned deficiencies in Nakayama are not remedied by any teaching of RFC 3031. The examiner relies on Nakayama for disclosing pre-appending a header (label) to the packet containing information on how the system should process the packet. The label in RFC 3031 is a fixed length, locally significant identifier which is used to identify the Forwarding Equivalence Class (FEC) the packet is assigned (see § 3.1 of RFC 3031). Like Nakayama, label in RFC 3031 does not identify where cells are within a slice.

Chong is directed to queuing and de-queuing packets in a two-dimensional link list data structure. Each buffer memory has an associated buffer descriptor that includes a pointer to the location of the buffer memory and a pointer pointing to the memory of the next buffer descriptor associated with a buffer memory for storing data for the same packet (Abstract) If a packet is tored multiple buffers, each buffer descriptor includes a pointer to the next buffer descriptor associated with the next buffer that stores data for that particular packet (¶ 31). In other words, Chong points to the locations in memory where the slices are stored. Chong does not contain data indicating where the cells are within a slice.

Therefore, for the reasons just set forth, neither Nakayama, RFC 3031 and/or Chong, alone or in any combination thereof, teach or suggest each and every element of independent claims 1 and 16; consequently independent claims 1 and 16 are not obvious in view of Nakayama, RFC 3031 and/or Chong. Claims 1-15 directly depend from claim 1 and thus contain each and every element of claim 1 and therefore are not anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art for the same reasons set forth for claim 1. Claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 directly depend from claim 16 and thus contain each and every element of claim 16 and therefore are not
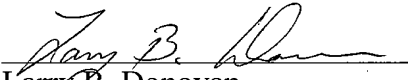
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anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art for the same reasons set forth for claim 16. Claims 23-29 directly depend from claim 22 and thus contain each and every element of claim 22 and therefore are not anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art for the same reasons set forth for claim 22. Claims 31-34 directly depend from claim 30 and thus contain each and every element of claim 30 and therefore are not anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art for the same reasons set forth for claim 30.

Conclusion

Withdrawal of the rejections to this application is requested for the reasons set forth herein. If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72255/00463.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____7 - 1 - 2008_____

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